

EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS

**SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
2008-09 BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING**

Outcome **9**

DEEWR Question No. EW349_09

Senator Abetz provided in writing.

Question

General Employee Entitlements and Redundancy Scheme

There is approximately a 20% increase in the budget for this program this year, is the government predicting more businesses to go out of business in the next 12 months?

Answer

No. As advised during the Committee hearings on 2 June 2008 (refer Hansard page 44), the 2008-09 allocation is consistent with that set in past years' forward estimates.

The General Employee Entitlements and Redundancy Scheme (GEERS) is a demand driven safety-net scheme whose expenditure fluctuates subject to the number of eligible claimants and the quantum of their outstanding eligible entitlements.

The 2007-08 Budget estimate for GEERS was \$86.487 million. This compares with the 2008-09 Budget estimate of \$82.803 million. The 2007-08 Budget estimate was revised down to \$67.979 million through the Portfolio Additional Estimates process based on actual expenditure rates.